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Global Gender Statistics Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session (see E/2010/24, chap. I.A). It summarizes the recent activities of the United Nations Statistics Division on gender statistics. It reports on the publication of *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, and reviews the work accomplished jointly with other partners under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, in particular the organization of the third Global Forum on Gender Statistics and of the meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. Finally it outlines future activities of the Statistics Division for 2011-2012. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

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I. Introduction

1. The work of the Statistics Division on gender statistics was initiated in the early 1980s, at the midpoint of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985). The first World Conference on Women in 1975 called for more statistics on the status of women, and the demands have grown further through three subsequent international conferences on women, and other United Nations conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and the World Summit for Social Development in 1995. The work of the Statistics Division on gender statistics has been designed to address three main problem areas: (a) the need for gender-sensitive data-collection systems; (b) the limited availability and accessibility of gender statistics; and (c) the under-utilization of gender statistics. The Statistical Commission, at its forty-first session, requested gender statistics to be an agenda item for its forty-second session. The present report summarizes the recent work on gender statistics, accomplished by the United Nations Statistics Division and its partners.

II. Publication of *The World's Women 2010*

2. In the Beijing Declaration adopted in 1995 by the Fourth World Conference on Women, participating Governments expressed their commitment to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere, in the interest of humanity. In order to assess whether these goals are being achieved, the Statistics Division publishes its flagship report *The World's Women* every five years, as called for in the Beijing Platform for Action.[1]

3. The fifth and latest issue in the series, *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, was launched simultaneously in New York, Shanghai and Bangkok on World Statistics Day (20 October 2010). The current issue presents statistics and analysis on the status of women and men in the world, highlighting the current situation and changes over time. It covers eight policy areas: population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty. Analyses are based mainly on available statistics from international and national statistical sources. The draft was reviewed by relevant offices of the United Nations as well as by individual experts.

4. The report *The World's Women 2010* has benefited from an increase in the availability of gender statistics in the last 10 years. The majority of countries are now able to produce sex-disaggregated statistics on population, enrolment, employment and parliamentary representation. In addition, gender statistics in some newer areas are becoming available. For example, statistics on child labour are now collected by a larger number of countries. Similarly, surveys on time use and on violence against women were conducted in both developed and developing countries, although international standards in these two statistical fields have not yet been fully developed.

5. The preparation of *The World's Women 2010* was, however, hampered by the fact that statistics in certain domains are not available for many countries.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, para. 208.

Furthermore, available data are often not comparable because concepts, definitions and methods vary from country to country. Data are also lacking in detail in many cases. Gender issues cannot be adequately reflected if existing sex-disaggregated statistics are classified into categories that are too broad or are not further disaggregated by relevant characteristics, such as age, residence or educational level. Finally, the quality of data varies across countries. One or more of the above-mentioned shortcomings are often encountered in data related to international migration, maternal mortality, causes of death, vocational education, access to and use of information and communication technologies, the informal sector and informal employment. The same is true of data on occupations, wages, unemployment and underemployment, decision makers in government and the private sector, and household poverty. In short, the capacity to produce reliable, accurate and timely statistics, in particular gender statistics, remains a formidable challenge for many countries.

III. Recent work under the Global Gender Statistics Programme

A. Background

6. Following the recommendations of an Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Gender Statistics, held in New York in 2006, the Statistics Division established a Global Gender Statistics Programme to advance gender statistics through the promotion of synergies among existing initiatives at the national, regional and global levels. The objective is to enhance the capacity of countries to collect, disseminate and use quality gender statistics through effective use of networking; building strong and supportive partnerships; establishing collaborative arrangement among governmental, intergovernmental, as well as individual experts; and fostering effective management and sharing of information among stakeholders.

7. Under the programme, the Global Forum on Gender Statistics has taken place on three occasions (Rome in December 2007; Accra in January 2009; and Manila in October 2010). The purpose of the Global Forum is to promote and advance gender statistics through the exchange of knowledge and experience in this field at the international, regional and national levels. It represents a venue for statisticians, users of statistics and policymakers to assess the production, availability and use of gender statistics.

8. In addition, an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, comprising representatives of the gender statistics programmes of international, regional and national institutions, was set up in 2007 to promote collaboration among the key stakeholders and to provide guidance to the programme on future directions. Its main tasks include taking stock, reviewing progress, challenges and emerging needs, and proposing actions to advance gender statistics at the international, regional and national levels. Current members of the Group include the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations regional commissions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Office,

the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and 11 countries.[2] The Group has had three meetings, all immediately following each Global Forum.

9. To better organize its work, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics has established three advisory groups, each composed of a small number of the Group members, to focus on three areas identified as key to the improvement of gender statistics. Each advisory group's function is to advise the Group on (a) the development of a global gender statistics and indicators database; (b) the development of training courses on gender statistics; and (c) best practices regarding statistical legislation on gender statistics.

B. The third Global Forum on Gender Statistics

10. The third Global Forum on Gender Statistics took place from 11 to 13 October 2010 in Manila. It was organized jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division and the National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines, in collaboration with the World Bank and with additional funding from the United Nations Development Programme. The Forum was attended by over 90 participants representing 31 countries and 11 United Nations agencies.

11. The focus of the 2010 Forum was on the gender dimensions of health statistics. Sessions included the measurement of maternal health and maternal mortality, disability, causes of death, caring responsibilities of women and men and related methodological advances. The Forum provided an opportunity for participants to learn of ways to strengthen their capacities in producing gender and health statistics. The Forum had the objective to review what needs to be done to improve gender statistics in general and health statistics in particular, in order to respond with a gender perspective to the monitoring requirements of international development goals.

12. The Forum recommended that countries and international development partners make efforts to strengthen overall national capacity for data analysis with a gender perspective; strengthen the capacity of health ministry to not only produce the necessary data but also to use, analyse and disseminate them; improve the use of gender-based health statistics to address policy concerns, formulate policies and change the focus of programmes; strengthen civil registration systems for the production of vital statistics; better integrate and harmonize data from different sources — administrative records, civil registration and surveys; promote the use of time-use surveys for the production of gender statistics; and promote the use of data-collection tools/surveys for gender-based violence. The full list of recommendations, including those specific to disability statistics, maternal health and mortality and time use statistics, is contained in the report of the third Global Forum on Gender Statistics.[3]

[2] Canada, Ghana, India, Italy, Jordan, Malawi, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

[3] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Philippines_Globalforum_Oct2010/default.htm.

C. Third meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

13. The third meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics took place on 14 October 2010 in Manila. A total of 23 participants representing seven countries and six international or regional organizations were in attendance.

14. The meeting reviewed the work of the three advisory groups and their work modalities. Members decided to trim the scope of work of the advisory groups on databases and on training, and discussed ways to ensure the active engagement of all group members. It was acknowledged that the recently established entity UN Women is an important member of the Group. The meeting also called for the expansion of the Group to include more countries.

15. The work for the year ahead will be largely on taking stock. Thus, on training, the work will focus on developing and creating a common repository system of all existing training material on gender statistics. On statistical legislation, the work will focus on gathering and summarizing information on national legislation relevant to gender statistics.

16. The Group reiterated the need for a core set of indicators on gender statistics that countries can use to assess progress towards international commitments and goals relating to gender equality. Thus, the advisory group on databases will focus its efforts on developing such a core set of indicators before the next meeting of the Group.

17. The Group urged the United Nations Statistics Division to push for the completion of the manual on gender statistics, the outline of which has been reviewed by the Group. The purpose of the manual is to train statisticians worldwide in the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics. It was recognized that such a manual prepared for global use does not duplicate a training manual on gender statistics that was published by the Economic Commission for Europe in 2010, which focuses on the situation and needs of the developed regions.

IV. Other work of the United Nations Statistics Division on gender statistics

18. An important component of the work of the Statistics Division on gender statistics is the compilation and dissemination of gender statistics. The Division maintains a website entitled "Statistics and indicators on women and men", providing the latest sex-disaggregated data available in six specific fields of concern, namely, population, women and men in families, health, education, work and political decision-making. The data have been compiled from official national sources as well as international sources. The website is updated every six months.

19. Another component of the Division's work is methodological work in gender statistics. In this regard, the Division is compiling country experience in adopting the Trial International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics as part of its efforts to improve this classification. These efforts will feed into the revision of the classification, which will be presented to the Statistical Commission when completed.

20. The Statistics Division also serves as secretariat of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on statistical indicators on violence against women. Their activities are contained in a separate report of the Friends of the Chair.

V. Future activities (2011-2012)

21. In the next biennium, the work of the Statistics Division on gender statistics includes the preparation of the following outputs:

- Guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women
- Revised International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics
- Gender statistics training manual

For each of the outputs, an expert review of the complete draft will be undertaken by an expert group meeting to ensure a high standard of quality and that the needs of all potential users are met.

22. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with relevant agencies and development partners and the host country, will convene the fourth Global Forum on Gender Statistics and the fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics in April or May 2012. Proposals for the venue and theme of the Forum have been put forward by the Group and will be decided in due time.

23. The Division will continue its ongoing work on the compilation and dissemination of gender statistics through its website (Statistics and indicators on women and men). It will continue to serve as secretariat of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women. It will also continue to support the Global Gender Statistics Programme and the work of the Group, meaningfully engaging the new entity UN Women in this effort.

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Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Indicators on Violence against Women

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session (see E/2009/24, chap. I.A), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Friends of the Chair on Indicators on Violence against Women. The report presents the major conclusions of the meeting of the Friends of the Chair held in December 2009 in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and the proposal for the forthcoming work of the Friends of the Chair. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

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Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Indicators on Violence against Women

I. Background

1. In its resolution 61/143 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Statistical Commission to develop and propose, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women, and building on the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, a set of possible indicators on violence against women in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. To that end, the Friends of the Chair group was established by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session[1] and the membership was subsequently expanded as per the instructions of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission. It consists of representatives of the following member States: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Italy, Mexico (the chair), Thailand, Turkey, and the United States of America, with the United Nations Statistics Division acting as secretariat of the group. In addition, the following United Nations entities agreed to act as observers: the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the World Health Organization.

2. At its thirty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission requested the Friends of the Chair to facilitate the deliberation of this matter by reporting to the Commission at its fortieth session, proposing a list of basic indicators designed to assist national authorities in assessing the extent, prevalence and severity of violence against women.

3. The Friends of the Chair presented its first report to the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session for discussion. The Commission adopted the proposed set of indicators presented in the report as an interim set and first step, while at the same time requesting the Friends of the Chair to continue the work on the finalization of the work on indicators.

II. Summary of the meeting of the Friends of the Chair, Aguascalientes, 9-11 December 2009

4. The Friends of the Chair met at a meeting co-organized by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía de México and the United Nations Statistics Division in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 9-11 December 2009.[2] Eleven members

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/116.

[2] The report of the meeting (ESA/STAT/AC.193/L.3) is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/docs/finalreport.pdf.

of the Friends of the Chair participated at this meeting: Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Mexico, Thailand, Turkey and the United States of America, with Italy participating virtually by electronic exchange of comments and suggestions. In addition, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the World Health Organization participated as observers.

5. The meeting discussed in depth and details the statistical indicators on violence against women based on analysis of statistics and metadata collected by national and international surveys on violence against women. It also provided comments and suggestions to a survey module questionnaire developed under the Interregional Development Account Project on eradicating violence against women.

Major conclusions of the meeting

6. The meeting reiterated that the vehicle of choice for successfully collecting statistics on violence against women is a separate and dedicated statistical sample survey of women and that incorporating a violence against women module in existing surveys should be considered in a careful manner and only if there is no possibility of conducting a dedicated survey; even then, such a module could be attached to only certain types of surveys, preferably a demographic and health survey.

7. Aside from surveys, the meeting concluded that there is a need to further explore administrative sources that have the capacity to provide statistics on violence against women, such as police and court statistics, hospital statistics, safe house records and so forth. In that context, the Friends of the Chair acknowledged that further work on these sources and indicators is needed and concluded that this would represent the second stage of the mandate of the Friends of the Chair.

8. Responding to the task given by the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Friends of the Chair identified the following indicators as core indicators for surveys on violence against women:

(a) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency;

(b) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency;

(c) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency;

(d) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency;

(e) Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency;

(f) Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency;

(g) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner;

(h) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner;

(i) Total and age specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation.

9. The Friends of the Chair discussed, commented on and endorsed the proposed outline for the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*.[3]

Proposal for the forthcoming work of the Friends of the Chair

10. The first phase of the work of the Group consists of identifying the set of core and additional statistical indicators on violence against women and developing international *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*. This phase will conclude with the presentation of the *Guidelines* and the report of the second meeting of the Friends of the Chair to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-third session in February 2012.

11. For the second phase, the Friends of the Chair agreed to continue the work on two fronts. The first one refers to investigating the inclusion of indicators that have the source of data in administrative and civil society records in the core set, such as femicide, for example. The second front refers to formulating recommendations to ensure that the statistical data collections that have a source in administrative records, such as crime statistics, are adjusted to provide source on gender statistics in general, and violence against women statistics, in particular.

12. In doing so, the Friends of the Chair Group needs to coordinate closely with other international and regional initiatives aimed at improving administrative records that are planned in the next several years. In addition, the meeting recognized that there is a wealth of national experiences on the use of judicial, police and hospital records to produce statistics in general, which should be reviewed systematically in order to identify the overarching challenges of this exercise. Special attention should be paid to the impact of national legislations on the production of internationally comparable statistics on violence against women coming from administrative sources.

13. The Friends of the Chair decided to explore the possibility of introducing a worldwide homogenous violence against women statistical data collection exercise, as initiated by the Chair of the Group.

[3] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/default.htm.